

October 8, 2013

The Honorable Hugh Crawford  
Chairman  
Michigan State House Committee on Regulatory Reform

Re: House Bill 4405

Since 1974, the Michigan Lupus Foundation has been faithfully serving individuals and families affected by lupus. In fact, we are the only nonprofit organization located in the state of Michigan dedicated to support, education and research to find a cure for lupus.

As part of the Michigan Lupus Foundation's Mission, we would like to offer support for House Bill 4405 which would ban minors from using tanning facilities. This legislation follows a general rule of thumb for those affected by lupus, as ultraviolet rays are a leading cause of lupus "flares" - typically a severe recurrence of a patient's symptoms.

In addition to potentially reducing the number of lupus flares among our contingency, the Michigan Lupus Foundation finds support within House Bill 4405 for the following reasons:

- More than 30 states regulate indoor tanning for minors
- Studies have shown that ultraviolet radiation in a tanning booth is 15 times greater than outdoors
- Exposure to ultraviolet rays is a primary factor in the development of skin cancer
- Frequent exposure to ultraviolet radiation for individuals under the age of 35 increases the risk of developing melanoma - the most aggressive and deadliest form of skin cancer by 59 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Research shows this type of law would be beneficial to our young people, similar to age restrictions on purchasing tobacco products or alcohol
- The health of our young people should come before the profits of these types of business

The Michigan Lupus Foundation appreciates the opportunity to have our voice heard by the Michigan State House Committee on Regulatory Reform. Please feel free to contact my office or me personally with any further clarification regarding any of the issues outlined in this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank Mortl, III  
Executive Director  
Michigan Lupus Foundation